(2) Increase in the Haj quota for India by 50,000 at least.

(c) The proposed Amendment Bill for Haj Committee Act, 2002 is under Ministry's consideration. As regards increase in Haj quota, the Royal Government of Saudi Arabia has increased the quota for India for Haj 2008 to 167,991 - as compared to the quota of 157,000 seats for Haj 2007.

Agreement for nuclear reactor with Russia

696. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a significant concession to New Delhi, India and Russia have finalized the negotiations on an agreement for an additional nuclear reactor in Koodankulam;

(b) if so, whether an agreement was reached in this regard during Russian Prime Minister's visit along with 150 business delegates;

(c) if so, whether under the terms of the deal, Russia would build four extra reactors at Koodankulam in Tamil Nadu;

(d) if so, by what time a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(e) by when the work on the project is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) Yes, India and Russia have finalised negotiations on an Inter-Governmental Agreement on cooperation in the construction of additional nuclear power plant units at Kudankulam site in February 2008 during the Russian Prime Minister's visit to India. The Agreement is expected to be signed between the two Governments in the near future after which its implementation would start.

Supply of uranium from Africa

697. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has decided to tap the African continent for sourcing uranium civil nuclear programme;

(b) if so, whether South Africa has also conveyed to India that it would not be averse to supplying uranium to India;

(c) whether an Indian company recently bagged exclusive rights for exploration and mining of uranium in Niger;

(d) if so, whether any agreement has been signed with these countries;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the total uranium to be obtained from these countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) Yes. During his visit to India for the Third IBSA Summit, President Kgalema Motlanthe of South Africa